

The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan

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FCCJ congratulates Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov on
winning the Nobel Peace Prize

The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan congratulates Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov on winning the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize. The Philippine and Russian journalists were recognized for "their efforts to safeguard freedom of expression, which is a precondition for democracy and lasting peace," in the words of The Norwegian Nobel Committee, which awards the prize every year.

As more governments across the world become more authoritarian, the media environment is becoming increasingly hostile. It is significant that the prize has been awarded to journalists for the first time since 1935.

Ressa, the co-founder of the news site Rappler, was commended for leading her media outlet to "expose abuse of power, use of violence and growing authoritarianism in her native country." In a statement, Rappler said it was "honored" and "astounded" by its CEO being awarded the prize at "a time when journalists and the truth are being attacked and undermined." Ressa [spoke at FCCJ](#) in June last year and discussed the vindictive campaign of legal intimidation against her and other journalists in her country.

Muratov is editor-in-chief of Novaya Gazeta, which the Committee to Protect Journalists describes as "the only truly critical newspaper with national influence in Russia today." The paper is known for in-depth investigations into corruption, human rights violations and abuse of power.

In the words of the Nobel committee: "Free, independent and fact-based journalism serves to protect against abuse of power, lies and war propaganda. The Norwegian Nobel Committee is convinced that freedom of expression and freedom of information help to ensure an informed public. These rights are crucial prerequisites for democracy and protect against war and conflict. The award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov is intended to underscore the importance of protecting and defending these fundamental rights."